



Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, WI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants and two brownfields cleanup grants. Located in eastern Wisconsin along Lake Michigan, Milwaukee (population 573,358) is a federally designated Renewal Community. Built on a foundation of industrial activity, the city has been dominated by die cast companies, machine tool manufacturers, and tanneries. Over the past 30 years, Milwaukee has seen a decline in its traditional manufacturing base, which has left a legacy of vacant and underused brownfields.



Assessment Grants

New
2008

\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct six to eight Phase I and II environmental site assessments, focusing on the central part of the city where 85 percent of the city's tax-delinquent brownfields are located. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to conduct the same activities at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Cleanup Grants

New
2008

\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee for two brownfields cleanup grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up a site at 2227 North 31st Street. The site was formerly used as a manufacturing facility, machine shop, and auto repair shop. Contaminants of concern include volatile organic compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Petroleum grant funds will be used to clean up a site at 522 West North Avenue. The site was formerly a gas station and is contaminated with petroleum products. Grant funds also will be used to conduct community involvement activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

The city has approximately 300 acres of brownfields, including 145 tax-delinquent properties and many small neighborhood brownfields such as repair shops and dry cleaners. In the neighborhoods targeted for assessments and cleanups, minorities account for 89 to 97 percent of residents. The unemployment rates range from 12 to 19 percent, and 34 to 46 percent of residents live below the poverty level. Assessment of brownfields is expected to quantify the level of environmental contamination and help catalyze redevelopment. When the North 31st Street site is cleaned up, the city plans to include it in the mixed-use Garfield Park Development Project and reuse it for greenspace, walkways, and a sculpture garden. When the West North Avenue site is cleaned up, the city plans to include it in the proposed Bronzeville Entertainment and Cultural District redevelopment project.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team

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<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, WI

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The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.